

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 028397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, MX

SUBJECT:DESERTIFICATION

REFERENCES: (A) MEXICO 1395; (B) MEXICO 1144

1. USG INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW-UP TO UN
DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE MET JANUARY 31 AND REVIEWED GOM
VIEWS ON US/MEXICAN COOPERATION ON REGIONAL DESERTIFICATION
PROBLEMS AS SET FORTH REFTELS.

2. US AGENCIES PLEASED WITH DEGREE OF GOM INTEREST IN
PURSUING POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED BILATERAL COOPERATION,
AND SUPPORT IN GENERAL APPROACH SUGGESTED BY VELASCO AND
FLORES. U.S. AGREEABLE TO MEETING EITHER IN OR OUTSIDE
MEXICO CITY, WITH 10-15 PER SIDE. WE ARE FLEXIBLE RE DATE
BUT SEE SOME BENEFIT IN CONVENING PRIOR TO UNEP GOVERNING
COUNCIL SESSION (MAY 9-25) WHICH WILL CONSIDER DETAILS OF
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DESERT CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP. INITIAL U.S.-MEXICO MEETING
LAST JULY PROVED VERY USEFUL IN HELPING SHAPE U.S. POSI-
TIONS FOR CONFERENCE; AND SECOND MEETING IN MID-MARCH TO
LATE-APRIL TIME FRAME COULD BE EQUALLY USEFUL IN PREPARING
FOR UNEP GC DISCUSSIONS.

3. USG AGREES WITH VELASCO VIEW THAT MEETING SHOULD BE

BASICALLY TECHNICAL, WITH ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CHanneled TO APPROPRIATE POLICY LEVELS OF RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT CONSIDERATION AND THEN POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO SOCIAL WORKING GROUP OR MIXED COMMISSION. WE ALSO SUPPORT VELASCO'S WISHES RE UNEP PARTICIPATION; AND ALSO VIEW THAT ISSUE OF POSSIBLE CONTINUING NATURE OF BILATERAL WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR CONSIDERATION AT END OF NEXT MEETING.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDGARDO FLORES VIEWS ON OBJECTIVE OF BILATERAL MEETING, U.S. AGENCIES NOW REVIEWING ONGOING BILATERAL DESERTIFICATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND ASSESSING PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN U.S. SOUTHWEST, AS BASIS FOR IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR POSSIBLE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COLLABORATION. AT NEXT MEETING OF INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP (FEB. 16) WE WILL FIRM UP IDEAS FOR MEETING AGENDA FOR TRANSMITTAL BY EMBASSY TO FLORES AND VELASCO. INITIAL VIEW IS THAT CONFEREES COULD: (A) BRIEFLY REVIEW RESULTS OF DESERT CONFERENCE PLUS ONGOING AND PLANNED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES; (B) REVIEW ONGOING U.S.-MEXICO AGREEMENTS/PROGRAMS WITH DESERTIFICATION COMPONENTS OR RELEVANCE; (C) DESCRIBE PRIORITY DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS WITHIN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES; AND (D) RECOMMEND POSSIBLE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BASED ON IDENTIFICATION OF MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMON PROBLEMS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATEST MUTUAL BENEFITS. LAST ITEM SHOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY RELATIONSHIPS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS, AGREEMENTS AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (E.G., SOCIAL WORKING GROUP; MIXED COMMISSION).

5. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EXTREMELY USEFUL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE IN REFTELS. VANCE

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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